CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:

representing a plurality of data items as a plurality of respective nodes in at least one tree; and

displaying the at least one tree with an access time of the plurality of data items on an axis.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying further comprises:

displaying the at least one tree vertically with a root node of the plurality of nodes at a top.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying further comprises:

displaying the at least one tree vertically with a root node of the plurality of nodes at a bottom.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying further comprises:

displaying the at least one tree horizontally with a root node of the plurality of nodes at a left side.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying further comprises:

displaying the at least one tree horizontally with a root node of the plurality of nodes at a right side.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

retrieving one data item of the plurality of data items when a corresponding one of the plurality of nodes is selected; and

displaying the one data item.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the at least one tree further comprises:

displaying a connector between a parent node and a child node.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein displaying the connector further comprises:

displaying the connector in a first format when the child node's respective data item was displayed in a same window as the parent node; and

displaying the connector line in a second format when the child node's respective data item was displayed in a different window from the parent node.

9. An apparatus comprising:

means for representing a plurality of data items as a plurality of respective nodes in at least one tree; and

means for displaying the at least one tree with an access time of the plurality of data items on an axis.

10. The apparatus of claim9, wherein the plurality of data items comprise a plurality of web pages.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the plurality of data items comprise a plurality of database records.

12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the plurality of data items comprise a plurality of files.

13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the plurality of nodes comprise respective identifiers of the respective data items.

14. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the plurality of nodes comprise respective icons representing the respective data items.

15. A signal-bearing medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:

representing a plurality of data items as a plurality of respective nodes in at least one tree; and

displaying the at least one tree with an access time of the plurality of data items on an axis.

16. The signal-bearing medium of claim 15, further comprising:

compressing the plurality of nodes.

17. The signal-bearing medium of claim 16, wherein the compressing is based on a number of delimiters in addresses associated with the plurality of data items.

18. The signal-bearing medium of claim 15, further comprising:

expanding the plurality of nodes.

19. The signal-bearing medium of claim 15, wherein displaying the at least one tree further comprises:

displaying a connector between a parent node and a child node.

20. The signal-bearing medium of claim 19, wherein displaying the connector further comprises:

displaying the connector in a first format when the child node's respective data item was displayed in a same window as the parent node; and

displaying the connector line in a second format when the child node's respective data item was displayed in a different window from the parent node.

21. An electronic device comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device, wherein the storage device comprises instructions, which when executed on the processor comprise:

representing a plurality of data items as a plurality of respective nodes in at least one tree, and

displaying the at least one tree with an access time of the plurality of data items on an axis.

22. The electronic device of claim 21, wherein a root node represents a data item retrieved via an address entered by a user.

23. The electronic device of claim 21, wherein a child node represents a link selected from a data item associated with a parent node of the child node.

24. The electronic device of claim 21, wherein sibling nodes represent data items selected from a data item associated with a same parent node.

25. In a graphical user interface, a method for displaying a history of data items navigated, the method comprising:

maintaining data representing a history of data items navigated;

displaying the data graphically as a navigation path positioned relative to a timeline.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein a point in the navigation path along the timeline indicates when a data item was accessed.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein the navigation path is organized based on a parent/child relationship in a navigation sequence.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein a child node represents data items selected from data items associated with a parent of the child node.

29. The method of claim 25 wherein the data item is a web page.

30. An article comprising a machine-accessible medium having associated data, wherein the data when access results in a machine performing:

generating one or more nodes in a tree along a timeline, wherein a node represents a data item and each node is located along the timeline according a time the data item of the node is accessed.

31. The article of claim 30 wherein the machine-accessible medium further comprises data that when accessed results in the machine generating more than one tree, where each tree represents a data access session.

32. The article of claim 31, wherein a data access session includes a period that a web browser is used to access one or more web pages.

33. The article of claim 32, wherein a data item is a web page.

34. An article comprising a machine-accessible medium having associated data, wherein the data when access results in a machine performing:

displaying a timeline and tree in a graphical display, wherein the tree includes a node that is positioned in relation to a time on the timeline that the node is created.

35. The article of claim 34, wherein the node is created when a data item is accessed.

36. The article of claim 35, wherein the nodes represent data items.

37. The article of claim 35, wherein a data item is a web page.

38. The article of claim 34, wherein the tree is compressible.

39. The article of claim 34, wherein the tree is expandable.

40. The article of claim 34, wherein manipulating a display setting hides or displays nodes of the tree at certain levels.

41. The article of claim 34, wherein zooming in and out of the graphical display is a display setting.

42. The article of claim 34, wherein manipulating a display setting alters the size of the tree in the graphical display.

43. The article of claim 34, wherein scroll bars are displayed when the display setting alters the size of the tree to a size larger than the graphical display.

44. A graphical user interface to display activity data in a web browser, the graphical user interface comprising:

one or more nodes each representing a web page;

one or more trees containing one or more nodes; and

a timeline, wherein the nodes are positioned in relation to a time on the timeline that a data item of a node is accessed.

45. The graphical user interface of claim 44 further comprising:

a line connecting two nodes of the one or more nodes, wherein the line is of a style which indicates where a node was accessed.